Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. **[Currently Amended]** An aqueous gel medium for facilitating the electrophoretic separation of analytes present in a sample, said medium comprising:

(A) a non-crosslinked hydrophilic polymer;

(B) tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane – borate buffer;

(C) sodium dodecyl sulfate; and

(D) an organic additive;

wherein:

said tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane – borate buffer has a pH above 8.0 and below 8.3; **and**

said gel medium additionally contains one or more reagent(s) that function to help keep protein analytes in a reduced form; and

said aqueous gel medium **is capable of facilitating** ~~**facilitates**~~ the electrophoretic separation of said analytes **via capillary electrophoresis using an uncoated capillary tube** by comprising a molecular sieve.

Claim 2. [Canceled]

Claim 3. **[Previously Presented]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 1, wherein said one or more reagent(s) include a reducing reagent.

Claim 4. **[Original]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 3, wherein said reducing reagent is selected from the group consisting of 2-mercaptoethanol, dithiothreitol (DTT), dithioerythreitol (DTE), and tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine.

Claim 5 **[Original]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 4, wherein said reducing reagent is dithiothreitol (DTT).

Claim 6. **[Previously Presented]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 1, wherein said one or more reagent(s) include a metal ion chelator.

Claim 7. **[Original]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 6, wherein said reducing reagent is ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA).

Claim 8. **[Original]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 1, wherein said non-crosslinked hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of: dextran, polyacrylamide, cellulose derivatives and polyethylene oxide.

Claim 9. **[Original]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 8, wherein said non-crosslinked hydrophilic polymer is dextran.

Claim 10. **[Original]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 9, wherein said dextran has a molecular weight of 2,000 kilodaltons and possesses a non-cross-linked structure composed of approximately 95% alpha-D-(1-6) linkages.

Claim 11. **[Original]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 1, wherein said organic additive is an alcohol.

Claim 12. **[Original]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 11, wherein said alcohol is present at a concentration of from about 0.1% to about 30% (V/V).

Claim 13. **[Original]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 12, wherein said alcohol is selected from the group consisting of: methanol, ethanol, ethylene glycol and glycerol.

Claim 14. **[Original]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 13, wherein said alcohol is glycerol.

Claim 15. **[Original]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 14, wherein said glycerol is present at a concentration of from about 0.1% to about 30% (V/V).

Claim 16. **[Original]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 1, wherein said Tris-borate buffer is present at a concentration of from about 0.1M to about 1.0M.

Claim 17. **[Original]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 1, wherein said aqueous gel medium has a pH of 8.1 ± 0.1.

Claim 18. **[Original]** The aqueous gel medium of claim 1, wherein said analytes include analytes selected from the group consisting of: proteins, polypeptides, peptides and nucleic acid molecules.

Claim 19. **[Currently Amended]** A capillary electrophoresis system comprising a**n uncoated** capillary tube containing an aqueous gel medium, said medium comprising:

(A) a non-crosslinked hydrophilic polymer;

(B) tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane – borate buffer;

(C) sodium dodecyl sulfate; and

(D) an organic additive;

wherein:

said tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane – borate buffer has a pH above 8.0 and below 8.3;

said gel medium additionally contains one or more reagent(s) that function to help keep protein analytes in a reduced form; and

said aqueous gel medium facilitates the electrophoretic separation of said analytes by comprising a molecular sieve.

Claim 20. [Canceled]

Claim 21. **[Previously Presented]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 19, wherein said one or more reagent(s) include a reducing reagent.

Claim 22. **[Original]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 21, wherein said reducing reagent is selected from the group consisting of 2-mercaptoethanol, dithiothreitol (DTT), dithioerythreitol (DTE), and tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine.

Claim 23. **[Original]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 22, wherein said reducing reagent is dithiothreitol (DTT).

Claim 24. **[Previously Presented]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 19, wherein said one or more reagent(s) include a metal ion chelator.

Claim 25. **[Original]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 24, wherein said reducing reagent is ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA).

Claim 26. **[Original]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 19, wherein said non-crosslinked hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of: dextran, polyacrylamide, cellulose derivatives and polyethylene oxide.

Claim 27. **[Original]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 26, wherein said non-crosslinked hydrophilic polymer is dextran.

Claim 28. **[Original]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 27, wherein said dextran has a molecular weight of 2,000 kilodaltons and possesses a non-cross-linked structure composed of approximately 95% alpha-D-(1-6) linkages.

Claim 29. **[Original]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 19, wherein said organic additive is an alcohol.

Claim 30. **[Original]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 29, wherein said alcohol is present at a concentration of from about 0.1% to about 30% (V/V).

Claim 31. **[Original]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 30, wherein said alcohol is selected from the group consisting of: methanol, ethanol, ethylene glycol and glycerol.

Claim 32. **[Original]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 31, wherein said alcohol is glycerol.

Claim 33. **[Original]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 32, wherein said glycerol is present at a concentration of from about 0.1% to about 30% (V/V).

Claim 34. **[Original]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 19, wherein said Tris-borate buffer is present at a concentration of from about 0.1M to about 1.0M.

Claim 35. **[Original]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 19, wherein said aqueous gel medium has a pH of 8.1 ± 0.1.

Claim 36. **[Original]** The capillary electrophoresis system of claim 19, wherein said analytes include analytes selected from the group consisting of: proteins, polypeptides, peptides, polysaccharides, and nucleic acid molecules.